# HIGHLIGHTS

February 2004

A Children & Youth Services Newsletter for Volunteers & Mentors of CYS-Project Together

Vol. XIV, No. 2

Special Holiday Donor Appreciation Edition

## CYS-PT Wishes Donors Happy New Year!

It seems like just a few days ago we were busy preparing for our annual summer picnic, now we're into February 2004!

During 2003, hundreds of children and families being served by Children and Youth Ser-



Surrounded by more than 200 holiday gifts, Sharon Modaff, Service Chief I, CYS-Project Together, right, presents a Holiday Angel Award certificate to the President of the Construction Purchasing Association (CPA).

vices (CYS) were the happy and grateful recipients of your most generous donations. Your support gave many CYS children the opportunity to go to summer camp, learn to swim or play the guitar, join a sports team, start school with a new backpack filled with school supplies, wear a warm jacket during the cooler winter months and much, much more. We were especially touched during the holiday season by your incredible outpouring of care and commitment to making this perhaps the happiest holiday the youth have experienced.

The Huntington Beach Elks Lodge hosted its 3rd Annual Holiday Party for

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Mentor Spotlight—Phil Schreiber

## Mentoring has Positive Effect on Child's Future

Prior to his retirement, Phillip Schreiber was president of one of the largest commercial development firms in Missouri. He served as president of several prominent boards in the St. Louis area, and served on numerous city and state commissions and committees, often as the chairman. His most satisfying accomplishment during his working career however, was his election for two terms to the Parkway School Board, the third largest district in the state of Missouri. It was during this assignment that Phil became aware of the many problems facing youth.

"I was spoiled by having a son who was a high achiever, both in his studies and athletics," said Phil. "His biggest problem in high school was writing an editorial in the school newspaper that upset a teacher."

Phil said that it was because of his son that he decided to run for the school board. "Marc graduated from Northwestern University in 1997 and is now Director of Marketing and Communications for the St. Louis Sports Commission," said Phil, "I wanted to give something back to the people who gave my son such a fine education."

After he retired, he and his wife Susan decided to settle in southern Orange County, California. Although he was retired, he remained aware of how difficult life can be for many children, and believed he could be of assistance in some way. It was for that reason that Phil became involved as a mentor for CYS-Project Together. "Many of our kids today are victims of circumstance," said Phil. "Through no fault of their own



they are placed in unhappy childhood environments. If, as a mentor, you can show another facet of life, one of caring and sincere interest even for a few hours, you might have a very positive effect on a child's future."

Phil has been working to accomplish his mentoring objective with a 13-year-old boy with whom he has been matched for more than a year. "He seldom smiles and shows little emotion," Phil said, adding that he is very bright but "lacks the desire to learn and achieve". Phil noted that last year the boy had difficulty in school, although he continued on page 7

# More than One Way to Hug a Child Page 2 Thank you HB Elks Page 3 Holiday Donors Exemplify Spirit Page 4 Calendar Page 6

## There's More Than One Way to Hug a Child...

The staff and clients of Children and Youth Services (CYS) and CYS-Project Together deeply appreciate the wonderful support provided by many local businesses and organizations. Our affiliation with the Mental Health Association

of Orange County allows us to accept and distribute community resources that are an important asset in the therapeutic process for all the children we serve. Each month, we extend our thanks and give recognition to our caring donors.

#### **AAA Muffler**

Employees Costa Mesa

#### Melissa Almon Aliso Viejo

Aspen Community Services/Cal Works

Employees Anaheim

## Aspen Community Services

Employees Costa Mesa

## Aspen Corporate Office

Employees Cerritos

#### Aspen Santa Ana

Employees Santa Ana

#### Autobytel

John Winton Mark Garms Sherrilee Seibert Ivan D'Cunha Alex Pilz Amanda Smith Amy Garreton **Bernard Tobias** Beth Ulery Carol Renna Caroline Kim David Tam Dorinin Peau Eric Chow **Grant Leathers** Jill Thompson Joyce Calderhead Justin McArdle Mohammed Uddin Nhubinh Bui Taren Pena Vivian Allsop Young Joon Kim Sonali Kothari Adrian Vanzulli Maria Wood

Mary Cooper

Stan Deckard

Sue Anthony

Raghava Sugosh Danielle Jones Michelle Koelzer Alicia Preto Alifiya Alifai Alison Cooper

Allen Austin Bob Remeika

Byron Ella Peterson Hondo Fund Jesse Avila Leeann Wimer

Patti Lee Richard Bell Rob Lange Shannon Acton

Sheryl Ashton Victor Prebyl Irvine

## Richard Bell Irvine

Buckman Teramor Newport Beach

#### California Cushion Design

Employees and Customers Orange

#### Casa de Amma

Employees
San Juan Capistrano

Nathaniel W. Cheung Aliso Viejo

## College Health

Employees Anaheim

#### Construction Purchasing Association Carlsbad

## Christy Coyne & Family Costa Mesa

Phyllis Crane Fullerton

#### **Curves for Women**

Members Anaheim Hills

#### Curves for Women Members

Orange

## Chantel Daitch, M.D. Orange

#### **DeVry University**

Employees Long Beach

#### e-Machines Irvine

Encino-In-Patient Rehabilitation Unit

## Encino Farmers Insurance

Employees Orange

#### Fullerton Golf Club Fullerton

## **Deneece Gabbard**South Laguna

#### Tanya Greene Lake Forest

#### Mark Gunderson Westminster

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Hall Midway City

#### Rita Brennan-Harris Irvine

Larry Herschler Anaheim

#### John Honiotes Corona del Mar

#### Interact Communication Washington Crossing,

Washington Crossing PA

#### Juvenile Drug Court Team/Irene Chisholm Orange

#### Mr. and Mrs. Young Joon Kim Fullerton

#### Knott's Berry Farm Buena Park

Albert A. Kopec Jr. Irvine

## LA International Church of Christ

Members Irvine

## LensCrafters Westminster

#### Los Alamitos High School Los Alamitos

## Carole Mintzer Orange

#### Mission Hospital

Employees Mission Viejo

#### Moo Go Gong Association

Santa Ana

Irvine

Fullerton

Members South Orange County

#### Orange County Chapter of Marriage and Family Therapists Members

Orange County Woodworkers Association Mike Kemper

Orange Korean Church College Group

## Orthodyne Electronics

Anjali Puri Huntington Beach

#### Phuong H. Reyes Aliso Viejo

#### Danette Rivera/Lotus Semi Conductor Aliso Viejo

#### Selman Chevrolet

Employees Orange

#### Smart & Final

Buena Park

## St. Simon & Jude Catholic School

Huntington Beach

## **Statek Corp.** Orange

### Tarsadia Hotel

Employees Costa Mesa

#### Vision Solutions Irvine

## Welch & Schaffner, Inc.

Employees Santa Ana

Tustin

Yorba Linda

#### Barbara Wenneker Ladera Ranch

Yellow Book USA Employees

#### Yorba Linda Friends Church

Yorba Linda Public Library Yorba Linda

#### Thank You HB Elks

## Mickey Mouse, Santa Claus, Presents and MORE!

Members of the Huntington Beach Elks Lodge No. 1959, along with dedicated volunteers from the community, hosted a magical Children's Christmas Party for CYS clients and their mentors on Sunday, December 14. CYS and Aspen Community Services children, along with two other youth groups, were treated to an afternoon filled with nonstop activities, including face painting,

musical entertainment, clowns and food, food, food! Special guests of the day were Mickey Mouse, who in holiday sweater and Santa hat greeted everyone in attendance, and Santa Claus, complete with gifts for each child.

Special thanks to Nancy Bresnan, a mentor with Aspen Community Services and member of the HB Elks Lodge, for inviting CYS-PT clients and mentors to participate in this special event for the last three years. Other Elk members assisting to make the day memorable were Tom and Valarie Lemm, Bill and Phyllis Herrel, Gary and Angie Lakin, Wayne and Bonnie LaVigne, Ken and Mary Rose Skolyan, Dave and Colleen Butler, Tom Bresnan, Judy Weaver and Tony DeSantis.







Magical Day For Mentors and Kids
Mentor Nancy Bresnan, above, along with her pal Mickey, helped
to create a very special day for nearly 100 children. Each child
had the opportunity to have his or her photo taken with Santa
Claus, center. Mentor Joleen Sagan, far right, poses with Mickey.







Ongoing Activities Highlight the Day Mentors from left George Russell, Lynda Aguilar and Margo Jolly take a moment to sit down and talk with their mentees.

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## **Holiday Donors Exemplify Spirit**

Throughout 2003, CYS Project Together was fortunate to be the recipient of numerous in-kind and monetary donations. However, during the months of November and December, the true spirit of giving, either through donations or volunteer time, was overwhelming. The following is a brief account of the "holiday heroes" who helped to make the sea-

son brighter for CYS clients and their families in each regional area:

#### By Veronica Chavez Regional Volunteer Coordinator East Region

Since 1996, Statek Corporation, located in Orange, has donated food, new and used clothing, toiletries and Christmas gifts. Jan Byrne, Statek employee, gave me a call one lucky day, and asked how she and other employees could help our clients and their families. Since that first en-

counter, Jan now calls on a monthly basis to let me know she has collected items that are ready to be picked up. During the Christmas Holidays, Jan puts together a collection of toys and each year it's bigger and better.

For several years, Bob Noonan, a therapist at the Yorba Linda Friends Christian Church, has coordinated Angel Tag donations. He usually requests the names of 50-60 CYS clients, along with their Christmas wish list. Members of the congregation, always ready with their wonderful Christmas spirit, picks a tag from the tree and off they go to make a client's Christmas wish come true.

The students at Los Alamitos High School have an amazing spirit of giving. For the last five years, they have conducted a school wide Christmas gift collection. Sponsored by the Key Club and the Interact Club, each classroom "adopts" a needy CYS youngster.

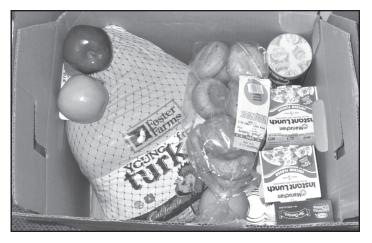
CYS-PT Community Service Volunteer, Cathleen Berry, rallied her staff and friends of Rembrandt's Fine Dining in Placentia to donate gently used and new clothing, shoes and toys for the CYS-PT Resource Center.

#### By Diane Prescott Regional Volunteer Coordinator West Region

This holiday season, the employees of several local businesses were extremely generous in fulfilling the wishes of children by participating in Angel Tag programs. Autobytel of Irvine converted over 45 Angel Tags into holiday gifts. Orthodyne Electronics, also of Irvine, donated toys, clothes, bikes, and sports equipment for 50 children. Second year donors, Vision Solutions, brought 55 children holiday cheer

and lots of fun by donating food, toys, clothing, bikes and other goodies. Knott's Berry Farm brought many smiles to the children by giving them super cute stuffed toys. Encino-Inpatient Physical Therapy Unit adopted a disadvantaged family and gave them a merrier holiday season. Interact Communication's donation gave us the opportunity to pro-

vide clothing items for children and their siblings. St. Simon & Jude Catholic School adopted six CYS families, giving them a brighter holiday with clothing, toys and household items. Individual donors included Dr. Chantel Daitch, M.D., Mr. & Mrs. Young Joon Kim, John Honiotes, and Richard Bell. Donors assisted 52 families during Thanksgiving and 165 at Christmas, helping to make the holiday season a happier time for many CYS clients.



By Sunney Shin Regional Volunteer Coordinator North Region

The Fullerton Ladies Golf Club assisted four families this Christmas by donating toys, clothes, roller blades, canned goods, gift baskets, toiletries, gift certificates and even a turkey. These resources provided much needed assistance for the families who, due to difficult circumstances, were unable to provide for their children. The club's generosity was evident as all of their donated items completely filled two cars. Truly, this was a very Merry Christmas for them!

The American Sewing Guild has been of great assistance to CYS-Project Together. Through their support and talent, they crafted handmade dresses and other clothing items for CYS children. In addition, they donated several handcrafted items that were sold at CYS-PT's Annual Holiday Boutique fundraiser last November.

For the past three years, the Yorba Linda Public Library has participated in North Region's Angel Tag program. Employees and patrons have donated toys, clothing, CD players, gift certificates and many other items that have truly brightened Christmas for many CYS clients.

The Orange Korean Church college group assisted 20 children and adolescents this Christmas through the Angel Tag program. They donated toys, shoes, gift certificates, videos, clothes and many other items. Their thoughtfulness was evident not only through their donations, but in the notes of encouragement and wishes of a Merry Christmas attached to the gifts.

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## of Giving Across CYS Regions

By Jonathan Schiesel Regional Volunteer Coordinator South-Costa Mesa

Although Mission Hospital and Buckman Teramor donated independently of each other, each decided to share their good fortune with those in need in the community.

Mission Hospital's employees receive a turkey at Thanksgiving each year and are offered the choice to keep the turkey or donate it to a disadvantaged family in the community. An amazingly large number of employees chose to act generously and donated their turkey. Each year we re-

ceive a call from Nancy Benedict, Mission Hospital's supervisor of Nutritional Services, who enthusiastically invites CYS-PT to participate in this amazing act of sharing. It is because of their value of sharing that many CYS families in need were able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

In our business community there are also generous people who look for the opportunity to share their good fortune with those less fortunate. The staff at Buckman Teramor, Newport Beach, pooled their resources and adopted two of South-Costa Mesa Region's families. Their donation provided gifts for the children and clothing for the adults living in the homes, including grandparents. It also included generous gift certificates to their local market to be used for groceries for their holiday meals.

It is through this team effort between the CYS family, our agency and the community that we derive an increase in morale and determination that can provide an impetus for improved mental health treatment.

#### By Lee Boon Regional Volunteer Coordinator South/Laguna

Pam Brooks, Benefits Coordinator in Human Resources at Mission Hospital, organizes and coordinates an innovative and caring donation program that supports South County Children and Youth Services clients. Using a hospital employee donation system of giving that has been in existence for almost a decade, a significant number of children receiving mental health services from the county have been given school clothes and supplies and holiday gifts each year. It is comprised of two annual events. The Mission Angel Project takes place at the beginning of the school year and the Holiday Angel program occurs in December.

Pam invites groups of Mission Hospital employees and CYS South County clinicians to attend a pre-event social



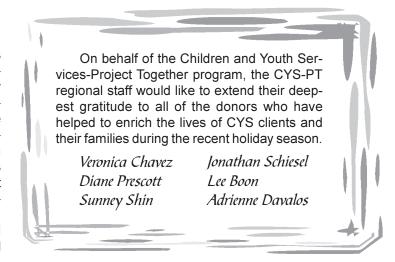
Niki Carter, Volunteer for Aspen Community Services, sorts donated holiday gifts destined for youthful clients and their families who would otherwise go without gifts on Christmas.

activity such as an ice cream social or hot chocolate and cookies party to match client referrals with hospital employee gift donors. Many times a particular group of employees will want to provide for the same client until that child is discharged. Later, she works closely with clinicians to coordinate collection and distribution of approximately 1,000 items (valued at approximately \$18,000-\$20,000 per project), including clothes, toys, gift certificates, bicycles, and other objects.

By Adrienne Davalos Regional Volunteer Coordinator Aspen Community Services

This year, Aspen Community Services expanded its Holiday Angel Tag program to serve their Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Tustin and Day Treatment programs. Over 332 children received at least two gifts each for the holidays, a significant increase over last year's donation tally.

One of the children in our program wanted a keyboard so that he could learn to play the piano. He loves music and is anxious to learn to play, but his grandmother, who is also his care provider, is receiving cancer treatments and did not have the money to buy one. Through a generous gift from one of our donors, the child received a keyboard for Christmas. Family members have pitched in for piano lessons and his mentor is going to help provide the transportation whenever possible. This gift will help to fulfill this child's love for music and give him a positive outlet during a difficult time in his life.



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# FEBRUARY 2004 Calendar of Events

The CYS-Project Together Calendar is a collection of affordable, fun, wholesome and interesting events that can be enjoyed by children, teens and adults.

#### Wednesday-Saturday February 4-7 Romeo & Juliet

Claire Trevor Theatre West Peltason Drive at Mesa Road UCI Campus Irvine

(949) 824-2787

This classic Shakespearean drama will be reenacted on the UCI Mainstage.

Time: Wednesday-Saturday 8 p.m. Saturday Matinee 2 p.m.

Cost: General \$15-\$17

Seniors and

Non-UCI Students \$14-\$15

UCI Students \$9

# Thursday-Sunday February 5-8 24th Annual Fascination of Orchids Show and Sale

South Coast Plaza 333 Bear Street Costa Mesa (714) 435-2160

Visit one of the largest orchid shows in the world.

Time: Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

## Saturday, February 7 Beginning Bird Watching— Bird Walk

Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center 2301 University Drive Newport Beach (949) 923-2275

Join Birding expert Joel Weintrab for a bird walk along Back Bay Drive. This walk is designed to introduce the joys of birding to beginners. Appropriate for ages 8 and up. Space is limited and confirmation is required.

Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Cost: \$3 per person

## February 7-16 "Snakes Alive!"

Discovery Science Center 2500 N. Main St. Santa Ana (714) 542-2823 www.discoverycube.org

They're scaly, they slither, and they come in all shapes and sizes. They're snakes, and you can see, hold and touch them at Discovery Science Center during "SNAKES ALIVE!". Meet Daryl Sprout and 16 of his snakes including Mr. Happy, Evie, and Socrates. During the Snake Encounters show, learn how to tell a venomous snake from a nonvenomous snake. Listen to funny snake stories. Know what to do if a snake bites someone. Learn about keeping snakes as pets and more!

Time: 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cost: \$2 a ticket after cost of

admission

Admission: Adults \$11

Children 3-17 \$8.50

Note: Residents of Santa Ana

with a valid Santa Ana ID can receive free admission the first Monday of every

month.

# Friday-Sunday February 13-15 Scats Gymnastics 2004 Hall of Fame Classic

Orange County Fair & Exposition Center 88 Fair Drive, Building #10

Costa Mesa

www.scatsgymnastics.com

For more information on this gymnastics competition, please contact SCATS Gymnastics, (714) 895-2909.

Time: Friday & Saturday 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10

\$5

#### Sunday, February 15 Nature Journaling

Children 5-16

Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center 2301 University Drive Newport Beach (949) 923-2275 Combine the art of field sketching with inspiration drawn from nature writing. This workshop covers basic journaling skills, tools, and activities shared by adults and children (ages 7 and up) alike. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Fee includes sample journal booklet. If it is raining, the program will be rescheduled. Space is limited and confirmation is required

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon Cost: \$5 per person

#### Saturday and Sunday February 28 and 29 Malibu Cat Show

Orange County Fair and Exposition Center 88 Fair Drive, Building #10

Costa Mesa Please contact the Malibu Cat Club at (909) 372-9079 for more information.

Time: Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$5 Children 12 and under \$4

#### Sunday, February 29 African Family Festival

Bowers Kidseum 1802 N. Main St. Santa Ana (714) 480-1520 www.kidseum.org

Celebrate Black History Month at Kidseum with the rhythmic drums and dance of Munyungo and Company. Join the drumming circle and learn some basics of African dance from this exciting troupe. Art Lab projects include West African Dashiki designs, Ethiopian magic scrolls and mud cloth patterns.

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Cost: \$5 for children ages 3 and up

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<sup>\*</sup>Mentors may use the Harbors Beaches & Parks passes for entry and parking at County of Orange facilities.

Special events may have an additional fee.

#### **CYS-PT Wishes Donors Happy New Year!**

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CYS-PT mentors and clients, and it was amazing! Every child that attended had a chance to meet and talk with Santa Claus, Mickey Mouse and members of the Huntington Beach Fire Department. They also enjoyed a day of face painting, musical entertainment and food, food, food! And if that wasn't enough, each child was also given a special gift selected especially for him or her!

For the second year, the Construction Purchasing Association (CPA) called to action each and every one of its members to grant a CYS client their special wish during the holidays. This year the CPA holiday/charity dinner was held at the Hard Rock Café in Newport Beach and every one in attendance brought a gift or two for a CYS client. The day after the party, the CPA rented a moving van that was filled to the brim with the gifts and delivered them to the CYS-Project Together Central Office.

Plus, employees of Orange County businesses and corporations such as e-Machines, Hewitt & Associates, Mission Community Hospital, and Northup Grumman, to name a few, made very generous donations to assist clients whose families are experiencing financial hardship.

We are also grateful to those who, throughout the year, made donations of gently used clothing, books, toys, toiletries and games.

We want all who donated to CYS-Project Together to know that without your support, we could not do the work we do and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

Each member of the staff of CYS-Project Together, as well as the youth and families being served by Children and Youth Services, thanks you from the bottom of their hearts.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and blessed 2004.

"There's more than one way to hug a child."

#### Mentor Spotlight—Phil Schreiber

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attained very high-test scores. This year, through the efforts of his counselor, he has changed schools and appears to be improving.

"We talk about his future and the importance of a good education," said Phil. "I think he's starting to get the picture since he is asking questions like 'what does it take to get into college' and 'what is the difference between a college and a university?"

Phil has also encouraged the youth to become involved in sports. "He just finished a season of baseball in an organized league," said Phil. He noted that although the youth had never played ball before, he has significantly improved since he began. He even made several runs for the team recently. "He really tried," said Phil. "He only missed one practice and showed up for every game. The highlight was his "inside the park" homerun in the last game," Phil said proudly. Phil noted that the crowed cheered him on, and for a boy who never smiled, he could be seen beaming from ear to ear as he rounded home base.

	HAPPY	BIRTHPAY!	
Young Joon Kim	2/4	Catherine Spencer	2/17
Karyn Baig	2/4	Larry Herschler	2/25
Athena Vuong	2/9	Ernesto Puchades	2/26
Loretta Golleher	2/16		

## Mentoring Matters

#### **WELCOME NEW MENTORS**

South/ Costa Mesa Sarah Lee Aaron Goehring

Stacy Cochran

## THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE MOVED ON

South/

Costa Mesa Leah Crain

West Valerie Nguyen

North

Daria Domin Urvashi Iyer

## HIGHLIGHTS

A Children and Youth Services Newsletter for Volunteers & Mentors of CYS-Project Together

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To submit an item for the Newsletter, please call (714)796-0100 or email cyspt@ochca.com.

"Mentoring is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated. It will both satisfy the soul and frustrate the mind."

> From a "Training Guide For Mentors," National Dropout Prevention Center.

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## How to Contact Children and Youth Services—Project Together

#### **General Information**

Phone: (714) 796-0100

Website: www.ochealthinfo.com/behavioral/cyspt

Email: CYSPT@ochca.com

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East—Veronica Chavez (714)480-6756 North—Sunney Shin (714)577-5422 South/Costa Mesa—Jonathan Schiesel (714)850-8444 South/Laguna/Mission Viejo—Lee Boon (949)499-8614 West—Diane Prescott (714)896-7509 Aspen—Adrienne Davalos (714)565-2830

The Health Care Agency/Behavioral Health Services/Children and Youth Services provides mental health treatment for emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth and their families throughout Orange County. CYS-Project Together is a volunteer mentor program for CYS children and teens. The program also offers supportive resources to clients and families to assist them in achieving treatment goals. The program operates cooperatively with its community partner, the Mental Health Association of Orange County.



DTP947



County of Orange Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services/Children & Youth Services CYS-Project Together *Highlights* 405 W. 5th Street, Suite 436 Santa Ana, CA 92701

